

CIA RATES TRIBE!

CIA Lackeys Read TRIBE

The *TRIBE* recently received a xeroxed copy of a newsletter called "Tupart Monthly Reports on the Underground Press" put out by the National Media Analysis Inc., Washington, D.C. These people read our newspapers and then report on us to various interested groups, such as the CIA and other branches of the U.S. government.

They report, "...we are quite well convinced the underground papers have a tremendous influence on the 15-25 year-old bracket, indirectly as well as directly." Here are some more of their observations:

(a) Circulation of underground papers is concentrated in major metropolitan areas and around college campuses, but not restricted to such areas.

(b) There is an overlap in readership between official college newspapers and the undergrounds, but the overlap appears to be shrinking in favor of the undergrounds.

(c) The underground press has influenced the conventional media in its attitude toward the society and in the issues and events covered.

(d) Within such topical areas as the Vietnam War, ecology, rock music, and sexual attitudes, the underground press has often been the major 'tastemaker' or 'issue maker'.

(e) Underground press impact on the society is expected to be manifested in the appearance of numerous additional underground papers in areas where there have been few in the past, as well as in circulation increases in existing papers.

We do not consider a publication an UNDERGROUND unless it characteristic all meets some of a set of criteria briefly summarized as follows:

(a) Stated intent, or advocacy, of overthrowing the society by violent or subver-

sive means.

(b) Trading in the obvious rhetoric or violent or subversive revolution—usually historically identifiable.

(c) Advocacy of the use of tactics or weapons typical of revolutionary or guerrilla warfare—again, usually identifiable historically.

(d) Attacking "the system" itself instead of individuals or groups who may be misusing it—exploitation of grievances versus attempts to promote reform.

(e) Relentlessly attempting to justify its violent or subversive posture on the basis of some law higher than that of the land.

Obviously, there is a JUDGMENTAL FACTOR involved in selecting papers for inclusion as part of the underground press—and there are honest differences of opinion on some publications, even among experienced observers. There are two factors, however, which reduce the probability of error by the careful analyst. One of these is the fact that the primary mission of the bonafide underground is to serve as a combination propaganda-communications medium for some political group or philosophy. Thus, even the most subtle paper at the beginning must eventually reveal at least a portion of its true colors or fail in its primary mission. The other factor serving accuracy in identifying underground papers is seen through the use of an approach similar in results to the technique which enables a physical anthropologist to identify a relatively small bone fragment as having once been part of a fully describable, whole body. In other words, a knowledge of the detailed characteristics of a large number of underground papers

single paper even if it does not exhibit ALL of the characteristics of an underground within a few editions.

DETAILS ON SELECTED PAPERS

Berkeley Tribe, Box 9043, Berkeley CA 94709. Founded: June 1968, Cir: 25,000 (sic!). Editor: Staff. Tabloid size, usually having 20 pages. Full-page ad sells for \$412.50. Subscriptions \$6.00/yr in the US; \$9/yr foreign (sic).

The *TRIBE* was started by the former staff of the more affluent Berkeley Barb (50,000 Cir and \$464/page advertising) following a fight with Barb owner Max Sheer over his interest in making money while the highly idealistic and radical-politics-oriented staff put the paper out for practically nothing. The *TRIBE* is collectively owned by its staff and makes editorial decisions on an elective basis. It demonstrates the greatest of interest in community organizational work in the Berkeley-San Francisco area and focuses on the Black Panthers, Weatherman, Chicano and Indian movements. It is viciously anti-military and against the Vietnam war—"the only way to end the SE Asia-war is to start a revolution in America"—and contemptuous of government policies at home and abroad. It speaks of "soft drugs" in condoning terms, but is not as rabid in advocating them as other papers; features drug advice for overdose cases and favors marijuana. It does not carry the "sex ads" its staff objected to so strenuously in the money-making Barb, but usually has a page or two of ads for meetings of various "liberation fronts" and movements organizations, and has the table of phone numbers of political groups, clinics, cooperatives, defense